

the Hampton Roads Sea Level Rise Preparedness and Resilience Intergovernmental Pilot Project.

Thanks to the hard work of local governments, federal partners, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, and academic support from Old Dominion University and others, much has been done to implement the recommendations of these studies.

That being said, much work remains to be done. Recommendations from the earlier pilot project and Joint Land Use Studies that are ripe for action include a number of items that require collaboration with the federal government. The establishment of Interagency Regional Coordinators for Resilience positions would be well suited to address persistent challenges that have hindered the “whole of government” and “whole of community” approach that the growing threats require.

As the climate continues to change, lessons learned from these partnerships would be beneficial to defense communities and others that support federal entities and assets of national importance.

Addressing the threat of climate change and ensuring members of the armed services have access to comprehensive mental health services and mechanisms to confidently advocate for their quality of life is not only crucial to ensuring military readiness, addressing these threats is morally imperative.

Lastly, I am pleased that my amendment (Amendment No. 618) regarding the transfer of federal land currently occupied by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the City of Norfolk has been included in this package. I am disappointed to lose a valuable asset in my district as they continue their planned move to Rhode Island, and it is important that this economic impact does not further affect the city. Transferring the land without cost to the city and in a timely manner will allow Norfolk and the Army Corps of Engineers to better protect the city from future flooding.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman SMITH for his work on behalf of our Nation's military and his support for these initiatives, and I urge my colleagues to support these important amendments.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF WOODHAVEN POLICE CHIEF ROBERT TOTH

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Robert Toth on the occasion of his retirement from Woodhaven Police Department. His thirty years of service to the Woodhaven community are worthy of commendation.

A graduate of Siena Heights University, the Eastern Michigan University Police Staff and Command School, and the FBI National Academy, Chief Robert Toth began his career as

an intern for the Adrian Police Department, later serving as a Police Officer. On January 13, 1992, he was hired by the Woodhaven Police Department. Over the course of his career, he has served in every position that the department has to offer. In his thirty years at the Woodhaven Police Department, Chief Toth has served as a Patrol Officer, as an Undercover Narcotics Investigator, in the Traffic Bureau, and in the Detective Bureau. As a valued leader in the department, he was promoted to Sergeant, Lieutenant, and then Deputy Chief, finally becoming Chief of Police in August 2017.

In addition to his job at the Woodhaven Police Department, Chief Toth has served as a member of the Downriver SWAT team for twenty-two years before retiring in 2016. He also took time to share his extensive law enforcement experience with others and volunteered as an advisor for the Woodhaven Police Explorers for fourteen years, taught classes at the Wayne County Regional Police Academy, and acted as drill instructor at the State Explorer Academy. Though he may be retiring, Chief Toth remains active in the department's Honor Guard. A treasured mentor and friend, he continues to reside in Woodhaven with his wife Lauren and their two sons.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Chief Robert Toth for his exemplary career in public service at the Woodhaven Police Department. I join with Chief Toth's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his honorable service and thank him for his role in protecting our community and the people of Woodhaven for the past three decades. We wish him the best in retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAJOR NHIA LONG VANG

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2022

Mr. COSTA, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nhia Long Vang, a Major in the Special Guerilla Unit (SGU) Secret War in Laos, a husband, father, and a beloved community activist in the Central Valley.

Nhia was born in the farm fields of Laos on October 12, 1939. His parents, Neng Yia Vang and Mai Vang were gifted with six children; the eldest being Nhia. Neng was the Head Chief of the village. Nhia attended first grade and second grade at 19 years old. He was then recruited by the United States Central Intelligence Agency to serve in the “Secret War in Laos” during the Vietnam War. Nhia was promoted to Sergeant by General Vang Pao and attended “Special Guerilla Unit” training in Phitsanulok, Thailand. He reported directly to the Central Intelligence Agency as he carried out top secret missions.

Missions led by Nhia were not unnoticed by his superiors. He led intelligence missions in Ho Chi Minh Trail, Road 7, so they could sur-

veillance the Pathet Lao and Vietnamese armies' operations, reported to CIA headquarters in Laos. Not long after being promoted to Captain in 1969, he was assigned to oversee the Hmong CIA soldiers' unit. Heavy combat fighting was expected in this unit. Despite suffering severe injuries, Nhia survived a shrapnel injury, and in 1970, the troops trained under him were transferred to support the Plains of Jars.

His contributions to helping in the war were endless. Nhia helped in aiding and rescuing American pilots after crashing in the jungle, and after attending special advanced operational military training, he was promoted to Major. His final assignment was supporting the Royal Laos armies in their fight against the Vietnamese army. His bravery, courage, and leadership undoubtedly saved many lives.

Nhia received asylum in Nam Pong, Thailand before relocating to the United States with his family. He married Lee Yang and they had children. In 1972, he married Ka Moua. They had a loving family raising 13 children. Nhia and his family eventually moved to Missoula, Montana. He cleaned Missoula's canals and after two years, they moved in 1982 to Santa Ana, California before settling in Fresno in 1983.

After serving the Hmong Community as a translator for the health clinic, Nhia returned to his roots and became a farmer mentoring others on how to be successful in selling Southeast Asian vegetables to wholesalers and retailers. Nhia used his experience to help families become self-sufficient while providing resources to health services and education and stressed the importance of voting. He showed unparalleled support, both financial and emotional, to Hmong and Lao veterans and their families. Nhia and I visited the White House and California State Capitol with Charlie Waters and Bill Dietzel, regarding local veteran community affairs. He worked with Dan Payne to have the community represented in the Central Valley Veterans Day Parade. Nhia enjoyed the Hmong New Year celebrations in Fresno and supported many Hmong and Lao cultures. In 2001, he was one of the Hmong Community Organizers campaigning and urging Hmong families to donate in support of the 9/11 families. The group raised over one hundred thousand dollars for the Red Cross.

His service earned him numerous special recognitions and certificates from Congress, the California State Assembly, and the County of Fresno. In 2021, the City of Fresno recognized him for his many accomplishments and service to the community. He educated people on General Vang Pao's legacy every December and advocated for the naming of Vang Pao Elementary School in Fresno. He advocated for the Hmong Language Program in Fresno Unified School District which passed in 2016.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Major Nhia Long Vang of the Special Guerilla Unit (SGU) Secret War in Laos. May we continue to be inspired by his story.